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†See inside pages for details.

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PLUS RED HOT SAVINGS

Saturday, December 28, 2013 to Friday, January 3, 2014

11.99 each

ROBAX PLATINUM CAPLETS (18's) or
ADVIL LIQUI-GELS (40's - 72's)
Selected Types

3.99 each

LIFE BRAND DANDRUFF SHAMPOO (420mL) or
PANTENE HAIR CARE PRODUCTS
Selected Types & Sizes
Excludes Premium

1.97 each

COCA-COLA or **PEPSI**
BEVERAGES 6 x 710mL
Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 2.99

3.30 each

COCA-COLA or **PEPSI**
BEVERAGES 12 x 355mL
Selected Flavours
Limit 4. After limit 3.99

20% off*

ALEVE
PAIN RELIEF PRODUCTS
Selected Types & Sizes

30% off*

L'ORÉAL MEN EXPERT SHAVE,
SIMPLE or **L'ORÉAL** SKIN CARE PRODUCTS
Selected Types & Sizes

6.99 each

MAXWELL HOUSE
GROUND COFFEE (925g) or
FOLGERS K-CUP COFFEE
Selected Types & Sizes

4.99 each

LISTERINE MOUTHWASH (1L), **COLGATE** TOTAL WHITENING (3's) or
SENSODYNE (75mL - 135mL) TOOTHPASTE
Selected Types
While quantities last. No rainchecks

2.99 each

DIAL BODY WASH (473mL), **DOVE** (2 x 113g) or
DIAL (8 x 113g) BAR SOAP
Selected Types

99¢ each

LAY'S
STAX CHIPS
Selected Types & Sizes

3.99 each

TAMPAX TAMPONS (16's - 20's),
ALWAYS INFINITY LINERS (64's) or MAXI PADS (12's - 18's)
Selected Types

25% off*

RIMMEL LONDON
COSMETIC PRODUCTS
Selected Types

22.99 each

HUGGIES SUPER BOXED DIAPERS or TRAINING PANTS
Selected Types & Sizes

HUGGIES or **PAMPERS** BABY WIPES REFILLS
Selected Types & Sizes - **6.99**

6.99 each

GOSH, AVEENO or **JOHN FRIEDA**
HAIR CARE PRODUCTS
Selected Types & Sizes

4/2.99
or 99¢ each

SELECTED SINGLE
CHOCOLATE BARS or **GUM**

1.99 each

LIFE BRAND ANTIBACTERIAL MOUTHWASH (1L),
COLGATE MANUAL TOOTHBRUSH or TOOTHPASTE (75mL - 170mL)
Selected Types
Excludes Premium

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Prices and Shoppers Optimum Bonus Points® in effect from Saturday, December 28, 2013 until Friday, January 3, 2014 while quantities last. We reserve the right to limit quantities. *Our Regular Price. †Offer valid on Saturday, December 28, 2013 only. Points are issued according to the net pre-tax purchase total of eligible products after redemptions and discounts and before taxes using a valid Shoppers Optimum Card®. Excludes prescription purchases, Shoppers Optimum Bonus Points®, RBC® Shoppers Optimum® MasterCard® points and points associated with the RBC® Shoppers Optimum Banking Account, products that contain codeine, non-pointable items, tobacco products (where applicable), lottery tickets, passport photos, stamps, transit tickets and passes, event tickets, gift cards, prepaid phone cards, prepaid card products and Shoppers Home Health Care® locations. Offer applies to photofinishing services that are picked up and paid for on the day of the offer only. Not to be used in conjunction with any other Shoppers Optimum Points® promotions or offers. See cashier for details. ® 911979 Alberta Ltd.

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20x faster

PLUS

1 DAY SALE

20x THE SHOPPERS OPTIMUM POINTS®

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 ONLY

WHEN YOU SPEND $50 OR MORE† ON ALMOST ANYTHING IN THE STORE.

FREE feels good

Saturday, December 28 Only!

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Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 4.99
Rest of Week 4.99

4.49 EACH **BOUNCE** FABRIC SHEETS (70's), **DOWNY** LIQUID FABRIC SOFTENER (1.23L - 1.53L) or **TIDE** LAUNDRY DETERGENT (1.18L) Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 5.99
Rest of Week 5.99

1.49 EACH **CHRISTIE** COOKIES or CRACKERS
Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 1.99
Rest of Week 1.99

2/$4 **LIFE BRAND** PAPER TOWELS 8 Roll
or 2.99 each. Limit 4
Rest of Week 2.99

3/$5 **LAY'S** (180g) or **RUFFLES** (235g) CHIPS
Selected Types
or 2.99 each. Limit 6
Rest of Week 2.99

1.77 EACH **CHEERIOS** CEREAL 260g - 330g
Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 1.99
Rest of Week 1.99

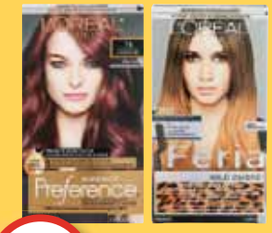
2.99 EACH **KRAFT** PEANUT BUTTER 500g - 1kg
Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 3.49
Rest of Week 3.49

8.99 EACH **MOTRIN** TABLETS (150's), **TYLENOL** EASY OPEN CAPLETS or TABLETS
Selected Types & Sizes
Limit 4. After limit 9.99
Rest of Week 9.99

40% OFF* **ALL VITAMINS** or **NATURAL HEALTH PRODUCTS**
Selected Types & Sizes

2.49 EACH **GILLETTE** SATIN CARE SHAVE GEL (198g), **BALÉA** KIDS SHAMPOO (300mL), **HERBAL ESSENCES** or **AUSSIE** HAIR CARE PRODUCTS Selected Types & Sizes
Limit 4. After limit 2.99
Rest of Week 2.99

40% OFF* **QUO** BRUSHES
Selected Types



7.99 EACH **L'ORÉAL** PREFERENCE or FÉRIA HAIR COLOUR Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 9.99
Rest of Week 9.99

Available at food store locations only

2.77 EACH **EVERYDAY MARKET** BUTTER 454g
Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 3.69
Rest of Week 3.69

25% OFF* **COVERGIRL** OUTLAST LIP, STAY BRILLIANT NAIL ENAMEL or FLAMED OUT EYE PRODUCTS
Selected Types
Rest of Week 20% off*

2.99 EACH **MAYBELLINE NEW YORK** BABY LIPS, COLOR SHOW NAIL ENAMEL or EXPRESS WEAR EYE SHADOW
Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 3.99
Rest of Week 3.99

18.88 EACH **GILLETTE** CARTRIDGES 3's - 8's
Selected Types
Limit 4. After limit 19.99
Rest of Week 19.99

2/$2 **LIFE BRAND** SPRING (12 x 500mL) or FLAVOURED (6 x 500mL) WATER
Selected Types
or 1.99 each. Limit 4
Rest of Week 1.99

2/$3 **EVERYDAY MARKET** LARGE WHITE EGGS 1 Dozen
or 2.29 each. Limit 2
Rest of Week 2.29

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Rest of Week Pricing in Effect Sunday, December 29, 2013 to Friday, January 3, 2014. While quantities last. We reserve the right to limit quantities. *Our Regular Price. †Offer valid on Saturday, December 28, 2013 only. Points are issued according to the net pre-tax purchase total of eligible products after redemptions and discounts and before taxes using a valid Shoppers Optimum Card®. Excludes prescription purchases, Shoppers Optimum Bonus Points®, RBC® Shoppers Optimum® MasterCard® points and points associated with the RBC® Shoppers Optimum Banking Account, products that contain codeine, non-pointable items, tobacco products (where applicable), lottery tickets, passport photos, stamps, transit tickets and passes, event tickets, gift cards, prepaid phone cards, prepaid card products and Shoppers Home Health Care® locations. Offer applies to photofinishing services that are picked up and paid for on the day of the offer only. Not to be used in conjunction with any other Shoppers Optimum Points® promotions or offers. See cashier for details. ® 911979 Alberta Ltd.

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Flights from Toronto. Book by December 30, 2013. Travel by May 21, 2014. Up to 14-day advance purchase may be required. One-way fares include all taxes, surcharges and mandatory fees. Additional charges may apply for checked baggage and other optional services.*
Fares starting from:

HALIFAX	MONCTON	MONT TREMBLANT	MONTRÉAL	OTTAWA	QUÉBEC CITY	SAULT STE. MARIE	ST. JOHN'S	SUDBURY
4 x daily	Daily	4 x weekly	16 x daily	16 x daily	Daily	4 x daily	Daily	4 x daily
$180	$135	$135	$118	$110	$118	$107	$231	$100
THUNDER BAY	**TIMMINS**	**WINDSOR**	**BOSTON**	**CHICAGO**	**MYRTLE BEACH**	**NEW YORK**	**VERMONT**	**WASHINGTON**
6 x daily	4 x daily	4 x daily	6 x daily	5 x daily	Service begins Feb. 13	13 x daily		Dulles 2 x daily
$141	$118	$100	$152	$152	$217	$134	$159	$142

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Le Parker Meridien
Standard Room
Dept. February 7, 8
Nights: 2
Fly to and from Newark.

★★★★ **BOSTON**
$723
Royal Sonesta Hotel
City View Room
Dept. January 28, 31, February 1
Nights: 2

★★★★ **MONTRÉAL**
$407
Le Centre Sheraton
Standard Room
Dept. February 1, 2, 3
Nights: 2

★★★+ **VERMONT**
$558
Trapp Family Lodge
Run of House
Dept. February 3, 24
Nights: 3
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* Book by 11:59 pm Eastern Time December 30, 2013. Travel by May 21, 2014. Up to 14-day advance purchase may be required. Advertised fares may not be available February 14, 15 and 17, 2014; April 17 through April 21, 2014; and May 16, 17 and 19, 2014. Advertised fares are subject to availability and may not be available through the entire travel period. Full fare breakdown available for all itineraries on flyporter.com. Fares quoted are one-way outbound in Firm Class. Inbound fares may differ. New bookings only. Fares include all applicable government-imposed taxes and mandatory fees, which may amount to as much as $150 one-way per passenger, depending on routing. Foreign taxes will fluctuate based on the prevailing exchange rate. Fees for optional services, such as itinerary changes, additional baggage, advance seat selection, or certain special service requests, may increase overall cost. Fares are non-refundable but itineraries may be changed for a fee of up to $200 per person per direction, plus any fare differential. Other significant conditions (including a $25 first-checked bag and $35 second-checked bag fee to and from the U.S., a $20 second-checked bag fee for flights in Canada, and charges for overweight and/or excess baggage) may change without notice and are not guaranteed until ticketed. Visit flyporter.com for more information. In case of any discrepancy between advertised fares and the fares shown on the website at the time of booking, the latter shall prevail.

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Tonight's Jackpot
$41 MILLION
estimated
Lotto MAX

NOT HOME FOR CHRISTMAS ... BUT IT'S CLOSE ENOUGH

RUSSIA BEGINS ISSUING EXIT VISAS TO DETAINED GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS, INCLUDING ONE CANADIAN PAGE 7

Poison! Maybe poison? Wait, OK, no poison?

Russia finds Yasser Arafat died of natural causes, after French, Swedish autopsies discovered some traces of radioactive polonium PAGE 6

Pain and (No) Gain: Metro's missed movie gems of 2013

The Reel Guys dish on the overlooked and underrated titles of the past year PAGE 10

Sorry, honey. Gaming now, dinner later

No, I can't pause it! I'm in the middle of a 25-man match. I've been trying to earn this achievement for weeks now. Look, I'll be done soon PAGE 8

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Ford scorned at event for frozen, hungry residents

Community housing.
Hot dogs and 'Ford for Mayor' magnets do little to warm resident hearts

Some residents of a Toronto Community Housing building on McCowan Avenue — which has been without power since Saturday — berated Mayor Rob Ford about the lack of electricity in their building and the city's lack of action at a barbecue held on their behalf.

As residents lined up for free food and hot chocolate, Mayor Ford tried calmly to assuage their frustration.

The residents of 400 McCowan aren't the only ones without power. Some 54,000 customers in Toronto are still without electricity. About 2,500 residents in Toronto Community Housing are without power, officials say.

Many at 400 McCowan are waiting it out in cold, dark apartments because they are afraid of robberies.

TCHC has been distributing some food to the building along with blankets, flashlights and water. But according to one Muslim resident, he couldn't eat the food because it wasn't Halal.

Two residents suggested Ford was only there so he could be on TV and get re-elected. An aide was discreetly handing out "Rob Ford for Mayor" magnets while Ford listened to residents' concerns.

One resident wept as she expressed her frustration to the mayor. "Nothing, nothing. No food at all," she said.

"You're not for the people," said another resident. "You say you are. But you're nothing but a crackhead," shouted another resident.

Ford told reporters later that the hydro crews can't work any faster.

"My heart bleeds for these people, but I can't promise a date when they're going to get it," he said.

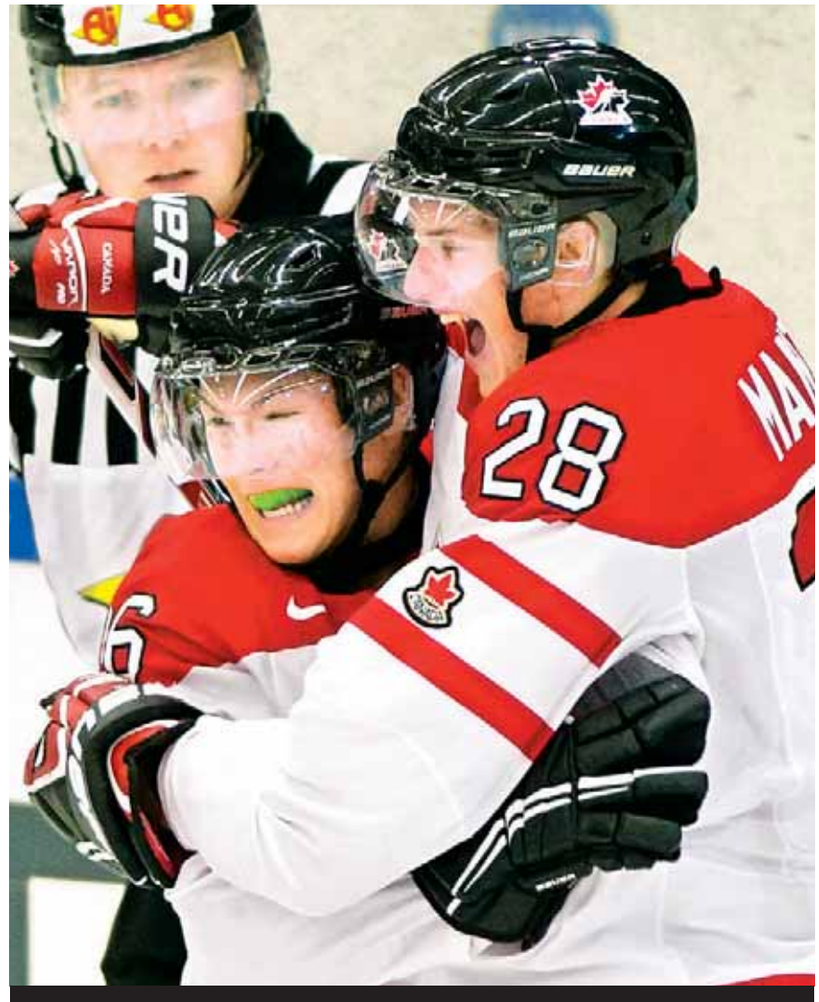
Other residents enjoyed his attention, lining up for their photo to be taken with the mayor or asking for his autograph. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE ICE STORM COVERAGE, PAGE 2

Mayor Rob Ford gets an earful from a resident at 400 McCowan Rd. in Scarborough during a barbecue on Thursday. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Atmosphere

"We're freezing in the night. I had nothing for Christmas. It's like a funeral."
Resident Deshuti Misir



DEUTSCHLAND DOWN

Team Canada forward Anthony Mantha, right, celebrates one of three goals against Germany with teammate Curtis Lazar on Thursday. Canada's next game in the qualification round of the IIHF World Junior Hockey Championships in Malmo, Sweden, is against the Czech Republic this Saturday. Story, page 16. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEWS 1

Boxing Day shoppers just can't stay away

Spend, spend, spend. Ice-storm aftermath didn't seem to stop city's bargain hunters from stalking their prey

The ice storm aftermath apparently did not deter people looking for a good bargain around Toronto.

Cassidy Chin said that though the lines at the Eaton Centre were long and the weather outside had been frightful, it wasn't enough to scare him away.

"We've never been out Boxing Day shopping. The weather hasn't impacted it at all. We just wanted to get out and get some sales," he said while queued outside a trendy clothing store.

"However, this is insane."

Pamela Favotto intended to pick up a new pair of boots, but that plan was dashed by the throng of shoppers.

"I'm leaving soon," she said. "As soon as I saw the lineup to get into a store, I was like, 'These people are crazy. I don't want to stay here.' It's too crowded."

Anthony Casalanguida, the general manager at Yorkdale mall, said you would never know there were weather problems based on the volume of shoppers in his facility, which was on track to increase by five per cent compared to last year.

However, people have also been coming to the mall since Monday for a different purpose, thanks to last weekend's ice storm knocking out power.

"(We've) seen a little bit more people taking advantage of electricity for recharging their phones and their iPads and their computers," Casalanguida said.

"Utilizing the shopping centre as a warming centre probably was something that people did do, but at that point I don't necessarily think we were too concerned about that.

"You would not know there was a weather-related issue." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shoppers make their way through the Eaton Centre as they visit the Boxing Day sales in Toronto on Thursday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Weston. Historic chain of office vanishes from library without a trace

Though it hasn't graced the chest of a chief magistrate in close to half a century, history buffs in Weston are aghast that their former town's mayoral chain of office is missing.

The alarm was raised on Dec. 4, when staff at the neighbourhood's library noticed the display case holding the chain had disappeared from its position on the wall.

Police have been called, employees questioned and storerooms searched, yet no trace of the chain has been discovered, according to Toronto Public Library spokesperson Anna-Maria Critchley.

Featuring a ring of decorative brass maple leaves and crafted nearly 100 years ago, the chain bears the names of every mayor Weston had during its decades as a town, from 1915 until it was amalgamated into the municipality of York in 1967, said Cherri Hurst of the Weston Heritage Conservation District. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The mayoral chain of office of the former Town of Weston. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'We need help.' Tempers are fraying for those still left in the dark

When will the lights come back on?

Five days after an ice storm crippled power lines, anger and frustration are mounting for more than 100,000 residents still shivering in the dark. And there is no immediate end in sight.

"We need help. Five days without power in the winter? It's inexcusable," said Adrian Marmara, 33.

On Thursday Marmara returned with his two young children to his home on Fred Bland Crescent in Scarborough to clean spoiled food out of his two fridges and chest freezer — food that should have been his Christmas dinner.

Toronto Hydro CEO Anthony Haines said he was unable to give a timeline for when power would be fully restored. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Baywood Centre
15 Westney Rd. N
AURORA
15483 Yonge St., Unit 2B
14785 Yonge St.
14879 Yonge St.
91 First Commerce Dr., Unit 5
BOLTON
12612 Hwy. 50, Unit 15
BRAMPTON
30 Victoria Cres.
4520 Ebenezer Rd., Unit 6
253 Queen St. E, Unit 3
105 Kennedy Rd. S
499 Ray Lawson Blvd.
14 Lisa St., Unit C1
499 Main St. S., Unit 58
1088 McLaughlin Rd.
9980 Airport Rd., Unit 11
25 Peel Centre Dr., Unit 505A
25 Peel Centre Dr., Unit 742K
10025 Hurontario St., Unit 118
BROOKLIN
5969 Baldwin St. S, Unit 7
COBOURG
975 Elgin St. W, Unit 8
ETOBICOKE
22 Dixon Rd.
6620 Finch Ave. W, Unit 4
25 The West Mall, Unit 1963
3015 Bloor St. W
1735 Kipling Ave.
250 The East Mall, Kiosk #316
500 Rexdale Blvd., Unit H3B
1530 Albion Rd.
GEORGETOWN
Georgetown Market Place
MAPLE
2943 Major Mackenzie Dr., Unit 4
MARKHAM
3636 Steeles Ave. E, Unit 101
9570 McCowan Rd., Unit 4
505 Hood Rd., Unit 12
7780 Woodbine Ave., Unit 2
4300 Steeles Ave. E, Unit E32
4300 Steeles Ave. E, Unit E67
8901 Woodbine Ave., Suite 218
3255 Hwy. 7 E, Unit E98
9275 Hwy. 48, Unit 11
5000 Hwy. 7 E, Unit 412
7690 Markham Rd., Unit 1C
MISSISSAUGA
Meadowvale Town Centre
Square One
Dixie Outlet Mall
153 Lakeshore Rd. E
6325 Dixie Rd., Unit 1
3105 Dundas St. W, Unit 102
7955 Financial Dr., Unit B
808 Britannia Rd. W, Unit 2
25 Watline Ave., Unit 10
7205 Goreway Dr.
1100 Burnhamthorpe Rd.
3021 Argentia Rd.
789 Taunton Rd. E
1053 Simcoe St. N, Unit 4B
2150 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W
60 Bristol Rd. E
920 Southdown Rd., BLD H, Unit 7
5100 Erin Mills Parkway, Unit V205
4141 Dixie Rd.
1250 Eglinton Ave. W, Unit A16
NEWMARKET
16715 Yonge St.
1065 Davis Dr.
18075 Yonge St.
17600 Yonge St., Unit EE22
NORTH YORK
Sheridan Mall
1700 Wilson Ave., Unit 72
1905 Avenue Rd.
4367 Steeles Ave. W
149C Ravel Rd.
Fairview Mall
4905 Yonge St.
5815 Yonge St.
3111 Dufferin St.
3040 Don Mills Rd., Unit 17B
Leslie Center
OAKVILLE
1027 Speers Rd., Unit 22
478 Dundas St. W, Unit 7
1500 Upper Middle Rd., Unit 2
240 Leighland Ave.
OSHAWA
Taunton Harmony Plaza
1053 Simcoe St. N, Unit 4B
285 Taunton Rd., Unit 20
419 King St. W, Unit 2272
PICKERING
Pickering Power Centre
Pickering Town Centre
611 Kingston Rd.
RICHMOND HILL
9196 Yonge St.
1480 Major Mackenzie Dr. E
10 West Pearce St., Bldg. B
Hillcrest Mall
9350 Yonge St.
10720 Yonge St.
Times Square Mall
1070 Major Mackenzie Rd. E
SCARBOROUGH
Woodside Square
1571 Sandhurst Circle, Unit 502K
5095 Sheppard Ave. E
1800 Sheppard Ave. E
Cedarbrae Mall
1900 Eglinton Ave. E
3300 McNicoll Ave.
1291 Kennedy Rd.
2555 Victoria Park Ave.
411 Kennedy Rd.
3495 Lawrence Ave.
1448 Lawrence Ave. E
5661 Steeles Ave. E, Unit 5
19 Milliken Blvd., Unit U
2490 Gerrard St. E
38 Ellesmere Rd.
300 Borough Dr., Unit 49
THORNHILL
31 Disera Dr., Unit 140
Promenade Mall
Shops on Steeles
6236 Yonge St.
9200 Bathurst St., Unit 26
TORONTO
421 Dundas St. W, Unit G8
282 Queen's Quay W
1015 Lakeshore Blvd. E
1821 Queen St. E
275 College St.
604 Bloor St. W
1348 St. Clair Ave. W
1461 Dundas St. W
2 St. Clair Ave. E
272 Danforth Ave.
471 Eglinton Ave. W
662 King St. W, Unit 2
939 Eglinton Ave. E, Unit 106
154 University Ave., Unit 101
2200 Yonge St., Unit 104
2397 Yonge St.
9A Yorkville Ave.
East York Town Centre
2400 Bloor St. W
919 Bay St.
525 University Ave.
45 Overlea Blvd.
Oriental Centre Mall
1448 Lawrence Ave. E
10 Clock Tower Rd., Unit B1A
1118 Finch Ave. W, Unit 1
6236 Yonge St.
3850 Sheppard Ave.
280 Spadina Ave.
4438 Sheppard Ave. W, Unit 151
900 Dufferin St., Kiosk 4010
1000 Gerrard St. E, Unit K2
618 Sheppard Ave. W
6758 Kingston Rd., Unit 12
730 Danforth Ave.
333 Bloor St. E
2120 Queen St. E
8 Wellesley St. E
1965-1971 Yonge St., Unit A
120 Front St. E
660 Eglinton Ave., Unit 104
3151 Yonge St.
808 York Mills Rd., Unit 15-17
2400 Eglinton Ave. W
2900 Warden Ave.
130 King St. W., Unit CW15
3401 Dufferin St., Unit 108
1 Yorkdale Rd., Unit 180
1 Dundas St. W, Unit Z010
220 Yonge St., Unit H014
112-10 Dundas St. E
2901 Bayview Ave., Unit 128A
329 Parliament St.
200 Bay St., Unit UC – 132B
2248 Bloor St. W
330 Bay St.
4980 Yonge St.
1080 Yonge St.
1 Blue Jays Way, Suite 1200
UXBRIDGE
11 Brock St. W
WHITBY
25 Thickson Rd. N
5969 Baldwin St. S
1549 Dundas St. E
3490 North Brock St.
WOODBRIDGE
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Offers available for a limited time and subject to change without notice. A connection fee of $15 per line also applies (to first invoice, applicable to new line/device only) to activate your service on the Rogers network. Device Savings Recovery Fee and/or Service Deactivation Fee (as applicable) apply in accordance with your service agreement. FLEXtab balance corresponds to the sum of the Device Savings Recovery Fee and the Additional Device Savings Recovery Fee. Where applicable, additional airtime, data, long distance, roaming, options and taxes are extra and billed monthly. *Offer ends Jan. 9/14. Samsung GS4 Mini $0 after applicable discount (not exceeding device purchase price) with new activation of a primary line on any 2-yr. talk, text and internet plan or secondary line on any 2-yr. talk, text and internet plan having min. $45 monthly service fee. See in-store for pricing of other eligible Samsung devices (discounted pricing requires new activation on any 2-yr. Smartphone talk, text and internet plan having min. $60 MSF on primary line or min. $55 MSF on secondary line). **1** Offer ends Jan. 9/14. Available to new and existing customers with new activation or upgrade on any Share Everything Plan with a monthly or 2-yr. term. **2** Applicable to new customers only from Dec. 26 – Dec. 31/13 with purchase and activation of a new Smartphone primary line (Smart Pick and bring your own devices excluded, secondary lines excluded) on a Share Everything plan having min. $70 monthly service fee on a 2-yr. term. Free service applies to monthly service fee only (excludes additional airtime, data, long distance, roaming, options, additional features and taxes). Device Saving Recovery Fee and/or Service Deactivation Fee (as applicable) apply in accordance with your service agreement. See in-store for full details. TM © 2013 Rogers Communications.

A presidential souvenir

'Twas the day before Christmas ... and one T.O. girl had a very special encounter at a gym in Hawaii

A 10-year-old Toronto girl received a presidential Christmas memory this week.

Kyrstin Lavelle received an autograph from U.S. President Barack Obama on Christmas Eve.

Kyrstin met Obama in Hawaii, where the president is spending his holiday vacation.

She was with her uncle and older brother at a gym at a Marine Corps Base in Hawaii where Obama was working out.

Words to live by

"To Kyrstin Dream Big Dreams."

U.S. President Barack Obama's message to 10-year-old Toronto girl Kyrstin Lavelle

Obama wrote: "To Kyrstin Dream Big Dreams."

Kyrstin said she also gave Obama a flower, and he said he would give it to first lady Michelle Obama.

"I'm going to text my friends back home," Kyrstin told reporters on Christmas Eve as she proudly displayed the autograph for reporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto's Kyrstin Lavelle, 10, holds open her book with U.S. President Barack Obama's autograph and comment for photographers to see on Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe on Tuesday. CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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United Way. Agency helps newcomers settle in

Make no mistake, there's nothing easy about pulling up roots and moving halfway around the world to start a new life.

Just ask Teresa Zhu, who arrived in Canada with her family five years ago, settling in Markham. Looking back, the now 17-year-old confirms it was one of the hardest things she's faced and it would surely have been that much more difficult without support from the Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS).

"I didn't have a lot of friends and my English was bad," Zhu said of those early days after arriving from Shanghai. "It was a hard transition."

The English-as-a-second-language program at CICS, a United Way of York Region agency, along with life skills and leadership programs, helped Zhu polish her language skills. That built her confidence enough to meet new friends at the agency, at school and in her neighbourhood, "making the transition to Canada better."

Since she was in a country with two official languages, the teen decided it would also be a good idea to take up beginner French. These days she volunteers in that program, helping other newcomers settle and become contributing members of society.

Celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, CICS — which also has offices in Toronto supported by United Way Toronto — has been in the vanguard of offering newcomers a wide variety of settlement programs focusing on children, families and seniors. The agency also provides employment and language training.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Fire

Boxing Day blaze destroys midtown house

An early-morning Boxing Day fire has destroyed a house in the Mount Pleasant and Eglinton Avenue area.

The blaze broke out in a detached house at 34 Elvina Gardens at around 5:30 a.m., and spread quickly to the roof of a neighbouring house, according to Toronto fire Capt. Mike Strapko.

About 20 fire trucks and 80 firefighters raced to the scene and extinguished the blaze. Damage is estimated at $1 million.

No one was home at the time of the fire and the cause is not yet known.

The Fire Marshal's Office will investigate.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Crime

Gunfire, stabbings send 3 to hospital

Toronto police are investigating after a man in his 20s stumbled into Humber River Regional Hospital around midnight Thursday. He was taken to a trauma centre to be treated for a gunshot wound to his abdomen, according to EMS.

Another man, also believed to be in his 20s, was rushed to a trauma centre Thursday morning after being stabbed in the abdomen. Paramedics were called to Pearl Street, near King Street West and University Avenue. They said his injuries are serious.

And a man is in custody after a stabbing Thursday morning in the Bathurst Street and Lawrence Avenue W. area. The victim, in his late teens, suffered serious injuries after being stabbed in the head.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Russian probe finds Arafat died of natural causes

Three investigations. No explanation how French, Swiss and Russian teams came up with different conclusions

A Russian probe into the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has found that his death wasn't caused by radiation — a finding that comes after a French probe found traces of the radioactive isotope polonium and a Swiss investigation said the time frame of his illness and death was consistent with that of polonium poisoning.

Yasser Arafat
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Vladimir Uiba, head of the Federal Medical and Biological Agency, said Thursday that Arafat died of natural causes and the agency had no plans to conduct further tests.

Teams of scientists from France, Switzerland and Russia were asked to determine whether polonium, a rare and extremely lethal substance, played a role in Arafat's death in a French military hospital.

French experts found traces of polonium but said it was "of natural environmental origin," according to Arafat's widow, Suha Arafat. Swiss scientists, meanwhile, said they found elevated traces of polonium-210 and lead.

Arafat died Nov. 11, 2004, a month after falling ill at his West Bank headquarters. At the time, French doctors said he died of a stroke.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Muted tributes mark Mao's birth anniversary

A worker pours water onto a statue of Mao Zedong at a factory that makes busts and sculptures of the late leader in Shaoshan, Mao's hometown, in south China's Hunan province. China on Thursday marked the 120th anniversary of his birth with relatively understated celebrations, a far cry from the cult of personality that once surrounded Mao, and a sign of how far China has travelled in the 37 years since his death and more than three decades since the junking of orthodox Marxism. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Philippines typhoon

President won't let energy boss resign

President Benigno Aquino III on Thursday rejected the Philippine energy secretary's offer to resign for failing to meet his self-imposed target to restore power in all typhoon-ravaged towns by Christmas Eve, an official said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan's Yasukuni shrine

PM rebuked for visit to war shrine

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe paid his respects at the Yasukuni shrine in central Tokyo honouring Japan's war dead in an unexpected visit Thursday that drew sharp rebukes from China and South Korea.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel Christmas tree

Tree could offend Jews: Speaker

The speaker of Israel's parliament says he refused to display a Christmas tree in the building because of the "painful memories" it evoked. He said he would have likely faced further requests to display a cross and crescent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Organ donation. U.S. faces new challenges regulating radical transplants

Sure, your liver or kidney could save a life, but would you donate your hands or your face?

The U.S. government is preparing to regulate hand and face transplants like it does standard organ transplants, giving more Americans who are disabled or disfigured a chance at reconstruction.

Among the first challenges is deciding how people should consent to donate these very visible body parts — without deterring them from traditional donation of hearts, lungs and other internal organs.

"Joe Blow is not going to know that now an organ is defined as also including a hand or a face," said Dr. Suzanne McDiarmid, who chairs the committee of the United Network for Organ Sharing that will develop the new policies over the next few months.

Double-hand transplant recipient Lindsay Aronson Ess works on her dexterity during a physical therapy session in Richmond, Va., Dec. 20. STEVE HELBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Making that clear to potential donors and their families is critical — "otherwise we could undermine public trust," said McDiarmid. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cadets get the cold shoulder

Navy cadets stand in front of members of the Canadian Forces during a Remembrance Day ceremony in Vancouver in 2012. Military budget cuts are leaving cadets out in the cold, with a freeze on the purchase of parkas just as winter kicks in. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Argentina

River bathers attacked by carnivorous fish

An attack by a school of carnivorous fish has injured 70 people bathing in an Argentine river, including seven children who lost parts of their fingers or toes.

Director of lifeguards Federico Cornier said Thursday that thousands of bathers were in the Parana River in Rosario Wednesday when they began complaining of bite marks. He blamed the attack on palometas, "a type of piranha." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Hampshire

Firefighter pulls own daughter from crash scene

A New Hampshire volunteer firefighter at the scene of a deadly crash unknowingly helped pull his daughter from the wreckage.

Thirty-year-old Katie Hamilton of Brookline was killed in the accident around 9 a.m. Christmas Eve. Brookline Police Sgt. Douglas Barnett said Hamilton was broadsided by a pickup after a truck hit her car and sent it into the northbound lane of Route 13. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Greenpeace activist Mannes Ubels of the Netherlands holds his passport near the Federal Migration Service in St. Petersburg, Russia, Thursday, as he jumps in celebration of getting permission to leave the country. Russian investigators dropped charges against all 30 crew members of a Greenpeace ship who were accused of hooliganism following a protest outside a Russian oil rig in the Arctic. DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian activist cleared to go home

Canadian Greenpeace activist Alexandre Paul after being freed from jail in St. Petersburg on Nov. 22. PAVEL GOLOVKIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia. Mother of Greenpeace's Alexandre Paul says he's due home Friday; 2nd Canadian still awaiting exit visa

The mother of one of two Canadian Greenpeace activists detained in Russia since September says she's getting a late Christmas present.

Nicole Paul says her son Alexandre Paul has been cleared to leave the country and is scheduled to touch down in Montreal on Friday afternoon.

"I spoke to him on Christmas and he was in good spirits," she said.

Paul's fellow Canadian Greenpeace activist — Paul Ruzycki of Port Colborne, Ont. — was facing a slight delay in his own departure from Russia because his exit visa hadn't been processed.

Greenpeace said it expected exit visas to be granted by Friday to all who'd been detained.

Ruzycki's family hoped to have him back before the new year. His sister, Patricia Ruzycki Stirling, said she hasn't been able to celebrate Christmas.

"It's not Christmas unless he's with us at the table," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Now, we're just hoping for a fresh start and to put this behind us."

Nicole Paul, mother of Canadian Greenpeace activist Alexandre Paul, who has been cleared to leave Russia after being detained since September

Tears, anger for doctor who died in Syria

Mourners gathered at a central London mosque Thursday for the funeral of a British doctor who died while in Syrian government custody.

Dr. Abbas Khan, an orthopedic surgeon, died just days before he was apparently due to be released. The circumstances remain in dispute — the Syrian government said he took his own life, but his family in the U.K. rejects the claim, and the British government has said the Syrian government is responsible.

Khan, 32, was detained in Aleppo in November 2012 shortly after entering the country to work in a hospital.

His family was told of his death 10 days ago.

British Prime Minister David Cameron criticized Syria for its "despicable" treatment of Khan and its refusal to work with Britain to release him.

"Abbas' death is a sickening and appalling tragedy, and it is right that the Syrian regime should answer for it," Cameron wrote to the Khan family, who have criticized the British government for not doing more to secure Khan's release. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abbas Khan's mother, Fatima Khan, is consoled by her son Thursday in London. STEFAN ROUSSEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Video games: Stress busters or time suckers?

Addictive behaviour. 'Just one more game,' you say? Suuuure

It starts innocently, as a time filler on a bus or a stress buster after a hard day at the office.

But as the shiny gems of Bejeweled Blitz or Candy Crush's brightly coloured bonbons burst in a satisfying cascade of explosions, you may find your playing takes a more compulsive tone.

A few minutes may turn into an hour and you still haven't loaded the dishwasher, picked up the book you were reading or engaged in a conversation with your partner or kids.

The fact is, some of these games can really hook users, experts say. And while there may be net gain to playing for many people, you may want to keep an eye on how much time you are devoting to them and what it is costing you, both in terms of what you aren't doing as a consequence and sometimes even what you pay to play.

"It's not a problem unless it's causing problems," says Dr. Bruce Ballon, a psychiatrist who developed the gambling, gaming and Internet use clinic at Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Ballon created his clinic because he recognized the similarities between Internet and video games and gambling. "There are huge parallels," he says, suggesting the visual and audio cues as well as hidden costs built into some games are very much like online gambling.

"It's inherently reinforcing," Susan Whitbourne, a psychologist who studies casual video game playing, says. "They know what they're doing when they make these things. They're designed to be engaging and exciting and pretty." THE CANADIAN PRESS

... or don't turn it on

Whitbourne and Ballon's tips for those who want to rein in their playing.

- Get a handle on how much time you're spending on the game, when you play it and what you're sacrificing by devoting time to it rather than to relationships or other endeavours.
- Try to figure out why you are playing. Develop the self-reflective skills to try to combat that.
- Set limits on playing time and be strict about them.
- Play free versions, or ones that can be played after a one-time purchase.

A man plays Candy Crush Saga on his iPad. While experts say such games have good qualities as stress relievers and potentially as cognitive training tools for older adults, they also warn of their addictive qualities. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Quoted

"Some people forget it is actually causing problems, such as, 'Oh, I'm not hanging out with my family as much anymore,' 'My kids are getting angry about it' or, 'I'm playing these games in the middle of dinner.'"

Psychiatrist Dr. Bruce Ballon

Holiday gifts. When you're just not that into them

That sweater your great aunt Bertha gave you for Christmas isn't really your style, but you'd feel guilty getting rid of it.

So it sits in your closet, gathering dust and taking up space.

Many of us accumulate stuff we don't want or need in December, whether it's well-intentioned but ill-suited gifts or items bought on impulse during Boxing Week because we couldn't resist a good bargain.

Marta Nowinska has a solution. She's the founder of Swapsity, an online marketplace where users list what they have to offer — web design skills or a seldom worn designer dress, for instance — and put together a "wish list" of items or services they need. Then the system, where no money changes hands, matches them up.

Nowinska recommends swapping stuff for experiences, like a hang-glider flight or a therapeutic massage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

What to do with those sweaters from granny? Why not swap 'em for a back rub? GETTY IMAGES FILE

Survey

Purolator Inc. found that 65 per cent of Canadians kept holiday gifts they disliked while 17 per cent planned to donate the item and 10 per cent planned to re-gift.

Just how to tip the au pair

McDonald's shuts employee website

McDonald's Corp. has shut down a website intended to provide employees with work and life guidance after it generated negative publicity. The McResource program was criticized for creating unrealistic budgets and offering out-of-touch advice. It included budgets based on holding two jobs, included no costs for heating and advised on what to tip a personal trainer or au pair. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Best Boxing Day ever

Glitch causes too-cheap flights

Some lucky fliers capitalized on a computer glitch Thursday and scored some really cheap flights on Delta Air Lines. For about two hours, some fares showed up incorrectly, offering bargain hunters round-trip flights between Cincinnati and Minneapolis for $25.05 and between Cincinnati and Salt Lake City for $48.41. The correct price for both is more than $400.

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IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THIS FINAL LIST

THE METRO LIST
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

1 Toronto the Dark. By Boxing Day, the darkest week in the darkest year ever was almost over. Toronto Hydro restored the power to more than 80 per cent of Toronto in the wake of last week's devastating ice storm. Sadly, Hydro could do nothing about that other wind, er, storm, Mayor Rob Ford, who continued to make pronouncements as if he hadn't lost all his power.

2 Used to hanging around in the dark. Thousands of Torontonians huddled in the dark waiting for stores to open early on Boxing Day 2013. Black Friday was supposed to render Boxing Day irrelevant, but retailers, suffering from an ice-storm-induced slump in sales, took full advantage of the tradition and started offering in-store specials on Christmas Eve. Back in London, the birthplace of Boxing Day, Harrod's employees passed out hot chocolate, smoked salmon canapés and blankets to shivering customers waiting in line while a string quartet played holiday tunes. With that kind of customer service, it's no wonder the U.K. expected 118 million shoppers and $3.4 billion in one day.

3 The "fish are biting" acquires new meaning. In Argentina, south of the equator, summer sunshine comes with its own perils. Temperatures reached 40 degrees, so thousands of people decided to cool off in a nearby river, the Paraná. (That was the first clue.) Soon, people began to complain of bite marks on their hands and feet and some children lost entire digits. The culprits turned out to be oversized, voracious piranhas called palometas. And even though officials closed the beaches, it was so hot that people decided to take their chances with the flesh-eating fish. And you thought you had it tough in Toronto.

4 From Russia with love. Apparently fed up with the care and feeding of 30 Greenpeace activists, several rude and profane members of Pussy Riot (the all-grrl rock band) and oil patch Oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Russian President Vladimir Putin released them all from jail and issued full pardons. None of the alleged felons were grateful, promising to bite the hand of Mother Russia, piranha-style, by continuing to air their various grievances. Pussy Riot member Maria Alyokhina, for example, complained of being kicked out of the gulag as a PR stunt prior to the Sochi Olympics in February. She should expect, therefore, to get her wish and end up back in jail once the last national anthem has been sung.

5 Whatever you do, don't eat this stuff. McDonald's has shut down its employee web site, McResource, after it was found telling its workers to avoid fast food — unhealthy choices such as burgers and fries. Of course, McDonald's sells more burgers and fries than anyone else on earth. And no, I do not make this stuff up.

ZOOM

You really otter sea this

ROMAN GOLUBENKO/SOLENT NEWS

Otterly adorable

A baby sea otter (Enhydra lutris) catches a nap on its mother as they float together on an ice cold lake.

The animals can be seen relaxing near the Kenai Peninsula in the Gulf of Alaska. Photographer Roman Golubenko, from North Bergen, New Jersey, snapped the adorable creatures. METRO

Otterly devastating

In 1989, an Exxon Valdez oil tanker ran aground and released about 11 million gallons of oil in the Prince William Sound in the Gulf of Alaska; the event has been considered one of the most devastating human-caused environmental disasters. Up to 5,500 sea otters died as a result of the spill but numbers have now recovered to an estimated 4,000. METRO

You otter know

- **Habitat.** Coastal regions of Pacific Ocean along Asia and North America.
- **Smash and eat.** Otters repeatedly smash shellfish against rocks until it breaks open to reveal a tasty meal inside.
- **Densest fur in the animal kingdom.** There are about one million hair fibres per square inch of an otter's body.

Two otter points of interest

Taking his photos, Golubenko couldn't help but compare the otters' gestures to those of human beings: "One of the funniest moments was when I saw two otters who looked like a couple. They were lovingly taking care of each other and they turned to me as if in a family portrait — one of the most tender moments I've seen among the cute creatures." METRO

Worth mentioning. AniMeals on Wheels helps low-income pets

If Meals on Wheels didn't deliver donated dog food, Sherry Scott of San Diego, Calif. says her golden retriever Tootie would be eating the pasta, riblets and veggie wraps meant for her. But thanks to partnerships between the program for low-income seniors and pet groups, fewer people and pets are going hungry.

Partner pet groups will solicit, pick up, pack and get the animal chow to Meals on Wheels or another agency that donates food.

For Scott, critical food deliveries arrive from Meals on Wheels in San Diego, which partnered with Helen Woodward Animal Center 15 years ago to add pet food drop-offs. Woodward had started one of the first pet food programs in the nation in 1984, called AniMeals, which expanded its reach when the agencies partnered. AniMeals started with 10 pets, and today there are 250, Woodward Animal Center spokeswoman Jessica Gercke said.

The partnership formed after "a (Meals on Wheels) volunteer discovered one of her clients was sharing her delivered food with her cats, sacrificing her own health," she explained.

Scott, a former tennis teacher who lives on less than $800 US a month, has been receiving Meals on Wheels deliveries for four years and pet food from AniMeals for about one.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Comments

RE: Why Covering Rob Ford is Not as Fun as it First Appears published online Dec. 26

I couldn't agree more. Thanks for this by now almost-universal perspective among Toronto's citizens — if not the subset of taxpayers they call Ford Nation. This man is not a leader; he's a narrow-minded, self-seeking glory hog, as is his brother in a more censorious way. I met some people just up from Brooklyn all eager to hear about the latest "crazy" stuff Ford has been up to. "He's such a laugh!" Not for us, I say. His presence is a gaping sore on the body politic. Too bad we have to wait for Oct. 27 to be rid of him. (I'm only cautiously optimistic about this, however.)

Brian Young, posted to metronews.ca

I wish he would just get over himself and call a state of emergency so that we could get the help we need.

tammy, posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
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metro
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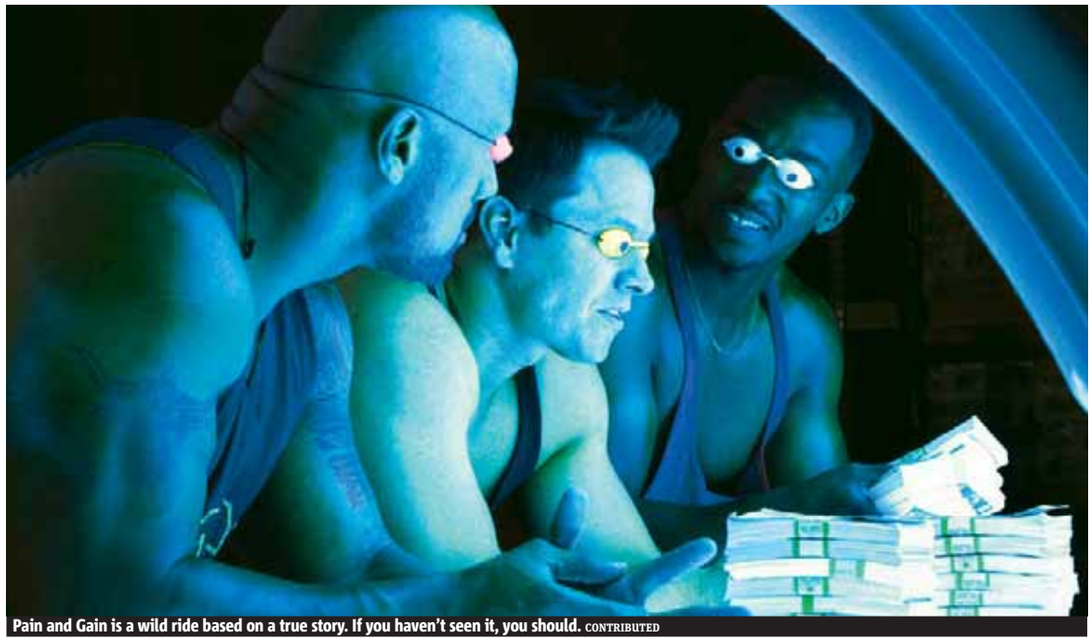
SCENE 2

Synopsis

From January to December 2013, hundreds of movies opened on our screens. We saw everything from American Hustle to Zero Charisma, from the ridiculous — 30 Nights of Paranormal Activity with the Devil Inside the Girl with the Dragon Tattoo — to the sublime — 12 Years a Slave. The Reel Guys watched a lot of bad movies this year so you don't have to and saw many great ones to recommend. But some of the good flicks slipped by without finding an audience. This week they revisit some movies you may have missed but should take a look at.



Pain and Gain is a wild ride based on a true story. If you haven't seen it, you should. CONTRIBUTED

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

Movies you may have missed

Ode to the overlooked of 2013.

As awards season begins, there's a lot of chatter about the darlings of the year — but what about the underrated films?

Richard: Mark, Pain and Gain seemed to me like it couldn't lose. Starring Dwayne Johnson, who was recently named 2013's biggest money-making star, Mark Wahlberg and directed by Michael "big bucks" Bay, it was the funny-but-true story about a trio of greedy dumb criminals who kidnap a rich guy. It plays like an episode of CSI: Miami performed by the Three Stooges and should have done boffo box office, but for some reason it didn't. What did you like that slipped through the cracks?

Mark: I loved Pain and Gain, and if anyone told me one of the best movies of the year would be directed by schlockmeister Michael Bay, I would take it as a sign of the upcoming apocalypse. Another overlooked gem to me was Trance, Danny Boyle's genre buster. Is it about an art heist? Mind control? Sexual obsession? Revenge? Best to ask James McAvoy and Rosario Dawson, both in fine form, and in the case of Dawson, I do mean — ahem — fine form.

RC: Also in fine form were the giant robots and sea monsters in Pacific Rim. I know they always say about Hollywood that "nobody knows anything," that you never know what will be a hit, but I thought the combo of Guillermo Del Toro, colossal sea beasts with an appetite for destruction and humungous rock 'em, sock 'em robots was a winner. It's a supersize geek freak out that transports you back in time to wherever you were when you were lucky enough to see your first Godzilla movie.

MB: Sorry, Richard, to me, actual rock-em, sock-em robots are more interesting, and are better actors. Another undiscovered gem for me was Side Effects, Steven Soderbergh's Hitchcockian mindbender from early winter. Starting off as a condemnation of the pharmaceutical industry, it turns a lot of corners and becomes a thrilling cerebral murder mystery. And Jude Law, no longer acting with his looks, is magnificent.

RC: Warm Bodies was essentially one joke — the zombie as a metaphor for awkward teenage love — but it's a pretty good one and well performed. Too bad more people didn't see it. The movie doesn't exactly make sense, particularly if you're a zombie fan of either the Romero or Walking Dead schools, but no matter how fast and loose it plays with the established mythology of the undead it's still a new twist on an old form.

MB: Warm Bodies reminded me of Ricky Gervais' Ghost Town in mood and had the same limitations of premise. A foreign film I thought was brilliant was China's A Touch Of Sin, which interwove four stories Pulp-Fiction style about the new economy in China and its victims, often ending in sad violent episodes. Brilliant Richard.

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7
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The Wolf of Wall Street. Scorsese and DiCaprio are a dynamic duo once again

"Anything goes" was the guiding ethos for Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio in making their extravagant dark comedy of Wall Street excess, The Wolf of Wall Street.

"We would look at each other and ask, 'Are we going too far?"' says DiCaprio. Rarely was the answer "yes."

The two longtime collaborators pushed the based-on-a-true-story tale to the limits of outrageousness, decency and MPAA approval. With pinstripe suits instead of togas, it's their Satyricon, their Caligula: a nearly three-hour-long orgy of money, sex and drugs.

The partnership between the 71-year-old Scorsese and DiCaprio, 39, has now stretched over five films and more than a dozen years. They've together been able to carve out a space for the kind of daring Hollywood typically shuns. "Anything goes" is far from the mantra of today's movie business.

"I don't think people really quite understand how unique this movie is," says DiCaprio, while Scorsese, sitting next to him, nods. "No matter what they think of the movie, you do not see films like this happening."

Leonardo DiCaprio and Martin Scorsese team up again for The Wolf of Wall Street. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scorsese and DiCaprio recently sat down for a joint interview to discuss their latest film, which opened on December 25. On the surface, they exude the dynamic of master and pupil. But they're on more equal footing, bonded by a desire to make movies like those from the '70s that DiCaprio grew up admiring and Scorsese actually made. In the last 13 years, Scorsese has made only one fictional film (Hugo) that didn't star DiCaprio.

"Over the years, it's been about learning more, fine-tuning the instruments together, so to speak, and discovering more from each other in the process," says Scorsese. They co-produced The Wolf of Wall Street, which Warner Bros. turned down in 2008 before it was reborn with Paramount Pictures.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Documentary

Expedition to the End of the World

Director. Daniel Dencik

Stars. Minik Rosing, Daniel Richter

Expedition to the End of the World certainly works better as a title on a metaphorical level than a literal description for this documentary about a rag-tag group of scientists and artists discovering unexplored fjords in the Arctic. Although the scenery is gorgeously filmed and the crew is erratically entertaining, the meandering meditation about humanity's relationship to the environment never quite coalesces.

STEVE GOW

Video game review

Name. Forza Motorsport 5

For. Xbox One

Rated. Everyone

For the first time in a racing game the computer drives the other cars like competitive jerks, sometimes trying to force you off the road or cause an accident. That's because Forza Motorsport 5 records the way you and other players around the world drive and adopts it as its own programming. It's a touch of realism, but also the kind of multiplayer behavior some prefer to avoid. A better improvement is the ease with which you can unlock cars and find a favourite before you dive into the upgrades. KRIS ABEL

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Mandela biopic takes tough look at Winnie

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom. Nelson Mandela's ex-wife examined in film

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom is in theatres now. CONTRIBUTED

As it runs down the life of late anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, the new film Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom also heavily features his polarizing ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

British actress Naomie Harris, who plays the scandal-plagued Madikizela-Mandela, says she thinks the South African activist "is misconstrued in a lot of ways" and the film "will help to address that."

"I'm not making excuses for any of the heinous things that Winnie is accused of, but I think what this film helps to do is to explain and bring greater understanding about why she became the woman that she became, which is really important," she said in an interview at September's Toronto International Film Festival.

"There's duality in her personality, because on the one hand, yes, she did advocate necklacing and these horrific things during the apartheid regime. But on the other hand, she is ... the woman who kept Mandela's name alive while he was in prison for 27 years. And really, if it wasn't for her doing that, then we might all have forgotten about Mandela. She also was so active with the youth, particularly in Soweto and the anti-apartheid movement there. (It) was a violent uprising largely, in Soweto, but it was also pivotal as well to dismantling apartheid."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Is Bieber beleaving? Don't belieb it

Fans of Canadian pop star Justin Bieber are trying to figure out what to make of a message on Twitter in which he said he was retiring.

Bieber followed up his tweet "My fellow beliebers, I'm officially retiring" with a message to his fans that included a promise he would "never leave" them.

The tweets came prior to the Christmas Day release of Bieber's movie Believe.

There was no mention of retirement on Bieber's official website and his publicist had no comment on the tweets, which have sparked a frenzy of reaction on social media.

One fan tweeted that if the 19-year-old sensation from Stratford, Ont. retires she would "retire from living" while another tweeted "life would not be the same."

Some of the singer's less enthusiastic followers, however, used a distinctly sarcastic tone, with one tweeting: "How can Justin Bieber retire? He's not even old enough to drink."

Justin Bieber performs in Las Vegas on June 28 as part of a world tour.
POWERS IMAGERY/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Another tweeted: "Justin Bieber is going to retire, there is a Santa!"

Bieber also talked about retirement earlier this month during an interview on a Los Angeles radio station.

But his manager Scooter Braun was quoted by the British television network ITN as saying Bieber was kidding and is only going to take a break next year.

Bieber has had a run of negative media in the past year, including apologizing for a video in which he is seen urinating into a bucket, cursing Bill Clinton and spraying a photo of the former American president with cleaning fluid in a New York City restaurant kitchen.

Canadian singer Jann Arden earlier this year advised Bieber to take a break.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Mini Monte Cristo Sandwiches

This recipe serves 20. PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Good things come in mini packages — and sandwiches

1. Cut baguette crosswise into 40 equal slices. Arrange on parchment-lined baking sheet. Brush the top of each slice with mustard. Top half of the slices with a slice of Emmental, a piece of ham and another slice of Emmental. Place the remaining baguette slices, mustard side down, on top.

2. In medium bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, salt, pepper and nutmeg.

3. In nonstick frying pan, melt half of butter over medium heat. Working with few sandwiches at a time, place in egg mix until they have soaked up a bit of it. Flip over to let them soak on the other side.

4. Place sandwiches in hot pan. Continue to soak and add sandwiches to hot pan until half of the sandwiches are in pan.

5. Cook 4 minutes per side or until golden and crisp and cheese is melted. Transfer to platter; cover loosely with foil. Repeat with remaining butter and sandwiches.

COURTESY PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Ingredients

- 1 baguette (350 g), ends cut off and discarded
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 pkg (120 g) PC French Emmental Slices, cut in forty 2 X 1-1/2-inch (5 X 4 cm) rectangular slices
- 5 oz (150 g) roasted ham, cut in twenty 2 X 1-1/2-inch (5 X 4 cm) rectangular pieces
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) whole milk
- 3/4 tsp (4 ml) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) freshly ground black pepper
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) ground nutmeg
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) unsalted butter

App. Turkey and Brie Puff Pastry Bites

Ingredients

- 1/2 PC Butter Puff Pastry, thawed but still cold
- 5 oz (150 g) roast turkey breast, finely diced
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) mayonnaise
- 1 pkg (200 g) PC Double Cream Brie, rind removed and cheese cut into 24 equal pieces
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) Dijon mustard
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey
- 24 fresh parsley leaves

1. Preheat oven to 425 F (220 C). Place puff pastry on work surface. Roll pastry out in one direction to form rectangle; cut into 24 pieces. Press each piece into the cups of a 24-cup mini muffin pan, allowing some overhang. Freeze 10 minutes.

2. In small bowl, stir together turkey and mayonnaise. Remove muffin pan from freezer; divide turkey mixture among the cups. Top each with a piece of Brie, pressing down slightly.

3. Bake in centre of oven for 20 to 22 minutes or until pastry is golden on bottom and cheese is melted and starting to brown.

4. Meanwhile, in small bowl, stir together Dijon and honey. Transfer pastry bites to a long platter; drizzle Dijon mixture over top and garnish with parsley leaves.

NEWS CANADA/PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Give your green beans a bit of Italian flair

1. In nonstick frying pan, heat oil and 1 tsp (5 ml) of the butter over medium heat until butter melts. Add shallots, salt and sugar. Cook, stirring frequently, 10 minutes or until golden brown and caramelized. If necessary, add 1 tbsp (15 ml) of water to prevent sticking. Stir in balsamic vinegar. Cook 30 seconds or until reduced; set aside.

2. Meanwhile, in pot of boiling salted water, cook beans for 3 to 5 minutes or until tender-crisp. Drain well. Return to pot; toss with remaining 2 tsp (10 ml) butter until butter is melted and beans are coated. Stir in shallot mixture until combined. Transfer to serving dish; sprinkle with shaved Parmigiano.

COURTESY PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) virgin olive oil
- 3 tsp (15 ml) unsalted butter
- 1 pkg (250 g) shallots, peeled and sliced lengthwise
- Pinch salt
- Pinch granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) PC Splendido Balsamic Vinegar Of Modena 2 Leaves
- 1 pkg (340 g) green beans
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) shaved PC Splendido Parmigiano Reggiano

Green Beans with Caramelized Shallots

This recipe serves four. PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Would you like to be kept in the loop of the hottest openings and events in your city? To be notified of other notable events for young professionals, go to: notable.ca/signup.php.

NOTABLE NOW
Julian Brass, Founder of notable.ca, Canada's online source for young professionals

New Year's Eve

We hate to be the ones to tell you this, but you've only got about 100 hours to decide where you'll be when the ball drops. That's not a lot of time to figure things out. Remember — even the awkwardness of being stuck in the back seat of a cab at midnight costs something. Check out notable.ca's extensive guide to this year's best parties if you're still mulling over where you want to end up.

Skating

Strapping a pair of blades beneath your feet is one of the hottest things you can do in Toronto right now — partly because it will actually keep you warm. Check out toronto.ca for a full list of rinks around the city (including which rinks are affected by power issues). But for those of you with a sense of adventure, we suggest a midnight skate at the Ryerson Rink at 25 Gould St. It's possibly the most romantic outdoor date in the city.

Art

Guggenheim — you've heard the name, and now you can see what they own. The Great Upheaval: Masterpieces from the Guggenheim Collection, 1910-1918 is now showing at the AGO and it's worth every penny of admission. We're talking about Chagall, Duchamp, Kandinsky, Matisse and Picasso. Get out and get cultured before the year ends. Runs through March 2, 2014, 317 Dundas Street W.

Swimming

Think you're tough enough to take on the New Year? Prove it. The Toronto Polar Bear Club will once again dive into Lake Ontario off Sunnyside Beach at noon on Jan. 1. Not only can you finally match your favourite toque with your best bikini, but all of the funds you raise by committing to this adventure will go toward building homes in Toronto for families in need. So go ahead and kickstart the year with one hell of a cold dip. Everything that follows will seem a lot easier to handle.

Photography

We're talking more than 100 years of life in Toronto captured on film (that thing people used before Instagram). And it's free. The Grid has complied street-level images that document historical landmarks and sites such as the St. Lawrence Market, Yonge Street, the TTC and Queen and Bathurst. What better time to revisit old Toronto than just before New Year's? On until May 2014 at 255 Spadina Rd.

New Year's, Take 2

Here are a few more parties that have just popped up for Dec. 31. Decisions, decisions.

The Amsterdam Brewhouse, 245 Queens Quay W. Funk, soul, and hops.

The Comedy Bar, 945 Bloor St. W.
Laugh away the old year or chuckle into the new.

Revival Bar, 783 College St.
The Bootlegger's Ball, with just about all the burlesque you can shake a flapper at.

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- 3:58 a.m. east from Sheppard-Yonge Station
- 4:07 a.m. RT east from Kennedy Station

January 1st, 2014, TTC service starts at 9 a.m.

Visit ttc.ca for all-night bus and streetcar schedules.

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

IN SPIRIT AND WINE
CORBY

Team Canada forward Anthony Mantha, from left, is congratulated by teammates Curtis Lazar and Nik Petan after scoring on Germany during second-period qualification-round action at the world junior hockey championships on Thursday in Malmo, Sweden. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Juniors wake up, take over after slow start

World juniors. Team Canada's win sealed by hat trick from unlikely hero vs. Germany

Anthony Mantha looked more relieved than jubilant after his three goals helped Canada start the world junior championship with a victory.

It may be because there had been doubts the Longueuil, Que., native would make the team — despite lighting up the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League this season — because of his questionable defensive play.

No one doubted his ability to put the puck in the net, as Mantha demonstrated with a hat trick in Canada's 7-2 win over Germany on Thursday.

"It's a great feeling," the lanky, six-foot-four right winger said. "For me, personally, I had to get a big game going and I think that's what I did."

It helped that Mantha was on a line with perhaps Canada's most dynamic playmaker in Jonathan Drouin, who assisted on all three of his goals — two on power plays and one at even strength.

But Mantha, the grandson of former NHL forward Andre Pronovost, scores wherever he plays.

Group A

Canada	Germany
7	2

He had 35 goals in only 32 games with the Val d'Or Foreurs before joining Team Canada two weeks ago for the run-up to the world juniors. He has 85 goals in 99 games over the last season and a half.

The Canadian team got a rousing welcome from the crowd of 1,831 — nearly all wearing Hockey Canada jerseys — at the 5,800-seat Isstadion, but still looked nervous as the game began.

The Germans got the opening goal off a faceoff in the Canada zone as Dorian Saeftel put a shot through traffic that fooled goalie Jake Paterson only 1:35 into the game.

A tougher test comes Saturday when Canada plays its second group stage game against the Czech Republic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

World juniors. Russia dominant in shutout win

Anton Slepyshev, Nikita Zadorov and Vadim Khlopotov each scored twice as Russia thumped Norway 11-0 at the IIHF World Junior hockey tournament in Sweden on Thursday.

Mikhail Grigorenko and Damir Zhafyarov had a goal and two assists a piece, while Nikia Tryamkin, Vyacheslav Osnovin, and Alexander Barabanov also scored for Russia in its first game of the under-20 event.

Norway's goaltender Henrik Haukeland made 17 saves on 27 shots through the first two periods before he was replaced by Joachim Svendsen to start the third. Svendsen gave up one goal on seven shots.

Group B

Russia	Norway
11	0

Russian goaltenders Ivan Nalimov and Andrei Vasilevski stopped 15 combined shots for the shutout. THE CANADIAN PRESS

World juniors. U.S. fires on all cylinders vs. C.R.

Jon Gillies made 23 saves, and the U.S. World Junior team got offensive contributions from five different players to breeze past the Czech Republic 5-1 in preliminary round action on Thursday.

Riley Barber, Will Butcher, Hudson Fasching, Jaccob Slavin, and Vince Hinostroza scored for the U.S., while Michal Plutnar scored the lone goal for the Czech Republic.

The Americans jumped out to a 2-0 lead on two power-play goals in the first period, and added two even-strength goals in the second.

Group A

USA	Czech Republic
5	1

Plutnar scored on a power play in the third period to make it a 4-1 game, but Hinostroza sealed the victory with the fifth U.S. goal at 17:49 of the final frame.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AHL

D-man lifts Bulldogs to OT win vs. Marlies

Hamilton Bulldogs defenceman Greg Pateryn was in the right place at the right time, and he made the Toronto Marlies pay for it.

Pateryn scored from the side of the net on a rebound off Jared Tinordi's point shot at 3:53 of overtime, lifting the Bulldogs to a 2-1 victory over their provincial rivals in American Hockey League action on Thursday afternoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

Rodgers returns to battle for division-title shot

Aaron Rodgers has been cleared to return from a left collarbone injury, just in time to start Sunday for the Packers against the Chicago Bears in a game to decide the NFC North title.

With no advance warning and little fanfare, the franchise quarterback received the long-awaited good news at the same time as the rest of his teammates Thursday.

"This is a fun day for me, but I think the focus needs to be on this game and the opportunity we have to win the division," Rodgers said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Male athlete of the year

LeBron adds another honour to his resumé

Even after a year like 2013 — when a spectacular wedding, a second NBA championship and a fourth MVP award were among the many highlights — LeBron James still is, as he puts it, striving for greatness. Or, technically, more greatness, since his enormous list of accomplishments just keeps growing.

James was announced Thursday as The Associated Press's 2013 Male Athlete of the Year, becoming the third basketball player to capture the award that has been annually awarded since 1931. James received 31 of 96 votes, beating Peyton Manning (20) and Jimmie Johnson (7).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mighty Milos wins Conacher award

Nation's best. Thornhill product is first tennis player to be named Canadian Press male athlete of the year

Milos Raonic entered uncharted territory for a Canadian men's tennis player this year, reaching the top 10 in the world singles rankings and leading the Davis Cup team to unprecedented heights.

He also won two tournaments in 2013 and thrilled Canadian fans by reaching the final of the Rogers Cup last summer in Montreal. He capped his impressive year Thursday by winning the Lionel Conacher Award as the 2013 Canadian Press male athlete of the year.

Raonic made some big strides this year despite going through some early-season struggles and a coaching change.

Milos Raonic was named The Canadian Press's male athlete of the year on Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

"The fact that I was performing under those circumstances when things weren't the best leading into those events, it's really great for me," he said. "It's what I'm most proud of."

The Conacher award is named after the multi-sport athlete who was chosen Canada's top athlete of the first half of the 20th century. The winner of the Bobbie Rosenfeld Award as Canada's female athlete of the year will be announced Friday and the team of the year will be named Saturday.

Raonic finished with 45 per cent of the vote in balloting of sports editors and broadcasters across the country. Calgary Stampeders running back Jon Cornish was well back at 22 per cent, followed by golfer Graham DeLaet (13 per cent) and figure skater Patrick Chan (eight per cent).

"Raonic had the most successful year in the history of Canadian tennis and his outstanding performance in the Davis Cup played a leading role in the country's semifinal appearance," said Yahoo Canada's Steve McAllister. "Raonic's climb up the ATP Tour rankings happens in an era that features more depth than ever before."

Raonic finished second last year behind cyclist Ryder Hesjedal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	37	25	10	2	106	77	52
Tampa Bay	37	23	11	3	106	87	49
Montreal	38	22	13	3	96	84	47
Detroit	39	17	13	9	99	108	43
Toronto	39	18	16	5	106	113	41
Ottawa	39	15	17	7	111	126	37
Florida	38	14	19	5	88	123	33
Buffalo	37	10	24	3	66	105	23

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	39	27	11	1	121	88	55
Washington	37	19	14	4	117	112	42
Philadelphia	37	17	16	4	93	104	38
NY Rangers	38	18	18	2	88	102	38
New Jersey	38	15	16	7	92	99	37
Columbus	37	16	17	4	101	106	36
Carolina	37	14	15	8	86	105	36
NY Islanders	38	11	20	7	96	129	29

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	39	26	7	6	145	107	58
St. Louis	36	24	7	5	128	85	53
Colorado	36	23	10	3	106	88	49
Minnesota	39	20	14	5	88	96	45
Dallas	36	18	12	6	106	107	42
Winnipeg	39	16	18	5	103	116	37
Nashville	37	16	17	4	85	109	36

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	39	27	7	5	127	98	59
Los Angeles	38	25	9	4	106	76	54
San Jose	37	23	8	6	121	94	52
Vancouver	39	22	11	6	106	93	50
Phoenix	36	19	10	7	111	110	45
Calgary	37	14	17	6	95	118	34
Edmonton	39	12	24	3	101	135	27

Note: 2 points for a win, 1 point for overtime loss.

Friday's games — All times Eastern
Ottawa at Boston, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Columbus at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
NY Rangers at Washington, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Saturday's games
Detroit at Florida, 7 p.m.
Boston at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Chicago at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Anaheim, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Edmonton, 10 p.m.

Sunday's games
Washington at Buffalo, 5 p.m.
Montreal at Florida, 5 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Columbus, 6 p.m.
St. Louis at Dallas, 6 p.m.
NY Rangers at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Calgary, 7:30 p.m.
NY Islanders at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Winnipeg at Colorado, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pt
Crosby, Pgh	20	34	54
Kane, Chi	22	27	49
Getzlaf, Ana	19	25	44
Backstrom, Wash	9	33	42
Ovechkin, Wash	30	11	41
Perry, Ana	22	19	41
Malkin, Pgh	9	32	41
Thornton, SJ	5	35	40
Kunitz, Pgh	20	19	39
Tavares, NYI	13	26	39
Steen, StL	24	14	38
Seguin, Dal	19	18	37
St. Louis, TBL	16	21	37
Karlsson, Ott	10	27	37
Sharp, Chi	18	18	36
Marleau, SJ	16	19	35
Ryan, Ott	17	17	34
Duchene, Col	16	18	34
Toews, Chi	13	21	34
Kessel, Tor	17	16	33
Pavelski, SJ	15	18	33
Hall, Edm	14	19	33
Jagr, NJ	13	20	33
Okposo, NYI	12	21	33
D. Sedin, Vcr	12	21	33
Hudler, Cal	11	22	33

NFL

Sunday's games — All times Eastern
N.Y. Jets at Miami, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Houston at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at New England, 4:25 p.m.
Kansas City at San Diego, 4:25 p.m.
Denver at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 4:25 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON

NBA

Thursday's results
Atlanta at Cleveland
Memphis at Houston
San Antonio at Dallas
L.A. Clippers at Portland
Wednesday's results
Chicago 95 Brooklyn 78
Oklahoma City 123 New York 94
Miami 101 L.A. Lakers 95
Houston 111 San Antonio 98
Golden State 105 L.A. Clippers 103
Friday's games — All times Eastern
Oklahoma City at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Denver at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Utah, 9 p.m.
Miami at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Phoenix at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Saturday's games
Cleveland at Boston, 1 p.m.
Brooklyn at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Washington, 7 p.m.
New York at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Denver at Memphis, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Houston, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Miami at Portland, 10 p.m.
Utah at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

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Maple Leafs getting effs from coach Carlyle

NHL. With Winter Classic just around the corner, Buds barely treading water

Maple Leafs head coach Randy Carlyle tried to exclude HBO's cameras while he reamed out his players during the intermission of their ugly 3-1 loss to the Florida Panthers last week.

Fortunately for us he failed to make sure the locker-room doors were completely shut.

"We're getting out-worked, out-executed, out-passioned, out-every-f–in' thing," he screamed, while the 24/7 cameras peered through a crack in the door, showing Nazem Kadri with his head in his hands. Carlyle proceeded to drop seven more f-bombs over the next 20 seconds before exasperatedly proclaiming: "We suck!"

Toronto's bench boss would presumably have felt better about his team's effort over its next three games — a trio of shootouts, one win and a pair of losses — but in general the Leafs are stuck in a slide.

They have just one regulation win in their last 18 games. That's more than 20 per cent of the season with just a single 60-minute victory.

Points of despair

41

Through 39 games this year the Leafs have 41 points, seven fewer than they had after 39 games in last year's strike-shortened season and two fewer than they had after 39 games in 2011-12.

December has been a grind, for sure, but this is not how the Leafs had hoped to head into next Wednesday's Winter Classic.

The Leafs take on the last-place Buffalo Sabres, who own an abysmal 3-12-1 road record this year, in their second-last contest before the big game at The Big House in Ann Arbour, Mich. The lowly Sabres have won three of their last four games and have beaten the Leafs in two of three this year. Goalie Ryan Miller, who has 31 career wins and a sparkling .922 save percentage against Toronto over his career, is expected to get the start at the ACC on Friday.

The Leafs will be looking to pick up some kind of momentum at home Friday and Sunday against Carolina before heading across the border for what should be a snowy Original Six matchup against the Red Wings. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Leafs lost 5-4 in a shootout to the Red Wings last Saturday. The teams face off on New Year's Day at The Big House in Ann Arbour, Mich., for the Winter Classic. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Flattery will get you everywhere today, especially when dealing with people in authority. You can easily persuade them to give you what you want.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
This promises to be a special day for you, even more so if you are socializing or travelling. It is also a good day to patch things up romantically.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you tend to worry a lot then what happens today and tomorrow will make you feel better about what has been going on in your life.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
This is one of the best times of the year for partnerships and for affairs of the heart in particular. With the sun, Venus and Mercury moving through the relationship area of your chart your charm and charisma will work wonders.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Take nothing for granted over the next 24 hours, not even things you have done a thousand times before.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
With both the sun and Venus traversing the most passionate area of your chart there is just no way you can keep your feelings to yourself. And why would you want to when your feelings are so positive?

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is someone in your world you need to pay more attention to. This person has always been important to you, but maybe they have not always received the love and respect they deserve.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Some people can be amazingly stupid but you won't make them any smarter by making a big deal out of their mistakes.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your ability to resist temptation will be limited today, if it exists at all. But that's okay because you need to let yourself go and have fun in that all-or-nothing Sagittarius way of yours.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
This is a time to relax and have fun with family and friends. The planets suggest you can do as you please and get away with it today.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If someone comes to you for assistance you will go out of your way to help them. But don't go so far that you spend all your time and energy on their problems and none on your own.

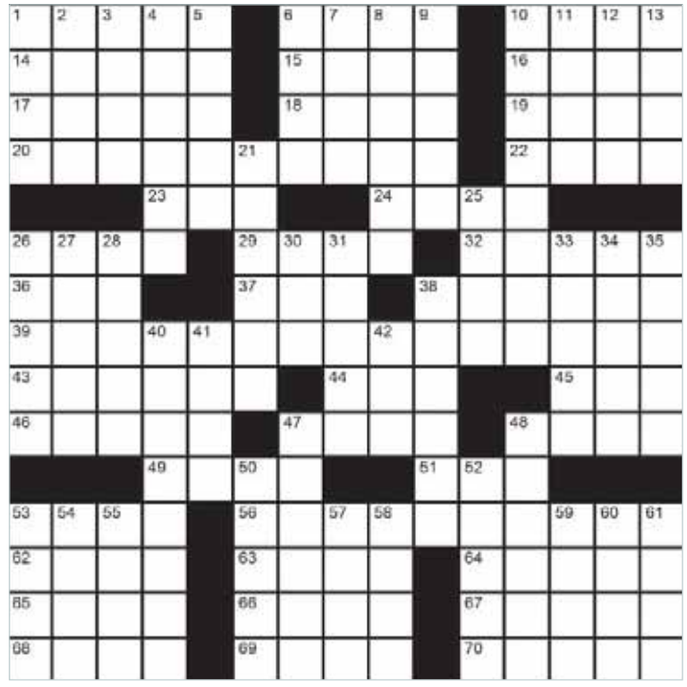
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Steer clear of subjects and situations which lead to disagreements over the next 24 hours. If you think your opinions might be too controversial, keep them to yourself— for now.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across

1. Particle
6. Cheese variety
10. k.d. lang and the __ Boom Bang
14. __-__ (Like diet soda)
15. Metallica's Mr. Ulrich
16. Instrument kind
17. Earthy hue
18. "Drive thy business ___ will drive thee." — Benjamin Franklin
19. Thaw
20. One of the artists in the current exhibition at #39-Across: Sandro __
22. Past partners
23. U2 rock producer
24. Winter sound effect
26. Sales slips, shortly
29. '70s song: You Light __ __ Life
32. Media family from Manitoba
36. Listener
37. Earthy prefix
38. Mr. Berton, Canadian writer
39. Art Gallery of Alberta, in Edmonton... Of Heaven & Earth: 500 Years of __ __
43. British actor, Ravi __
44. "Client" suffix (Patronage)
45. Roman Numeral
46. Opinion
47. England is part of it, __. __.
48. Affirmatives
49. West Edmonton __
51. Eye logo network
53. Architectural colonnade
56. Canada's version of the Mullet: 2 wds.
62. Deceiver
63. Fit
64. All: French
65. Social insects
66. Mr. Connery
67. Had to say "Oops!"
68. Large rip
69. Cobras
70. Pants parts

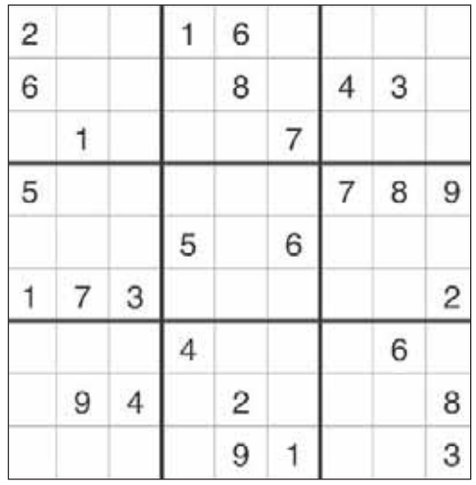
Down

1. Someone snooty
2. Somewhat, in music
3. Authentic
4. Menus, __ du jour
5. Designer Calvin
6. Ice mass
7. 1962 Gene Chandler hit: Duke of __
8. 1895 George du Maurier novel featuring the character Svengali
9. Buzzing
10. Island in Nunavut; or, village in Manitoba
11. Wild goat
12. Exclusive
13. Arranges
21. Canadian boots company
25. Madonna song
26. Type of healing technique
27. The Settlers of __ (Board game)
28. Carrie Underwood role, Maria von __
30. Compose
31. Dilly-dallier
33. PCO = __ Council Office
34. Bert's pal
35. Mr. Philbin
38. Mr. Brosnan
40. Canada's top athlete honour, __ __ Award
41. Tad
42. Western prov.
47. Planets
48. On the beach
50. Woof! __ Apso
52. Computer memory units
53. Waste
54. Ms. Turner
55. Bits of granola
57. Thundering sound
58. Documentarian Mr. Burns'
59. Lady Gaga song
60. Particular
61. Some Smarties

Yesterday's Crossword

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	9	1	2	5	8	4	6
1	2	8	3	4	6	5	7	9
6	5	4	8	9	7	3	2	1
7	6	1	9	3	8	4	5	2
9	4	3	5	6	2	1	8	7
2	8	5	4	7	1	9	6	3
5	1	2	6	8	9	7	3	4
4	9	6	7	5	3	2	1	8
8	3	7	2	1	4	6	9	5

Today
-1°/-2°
Partly cloudy

Saturday
3°/-6°
Variable

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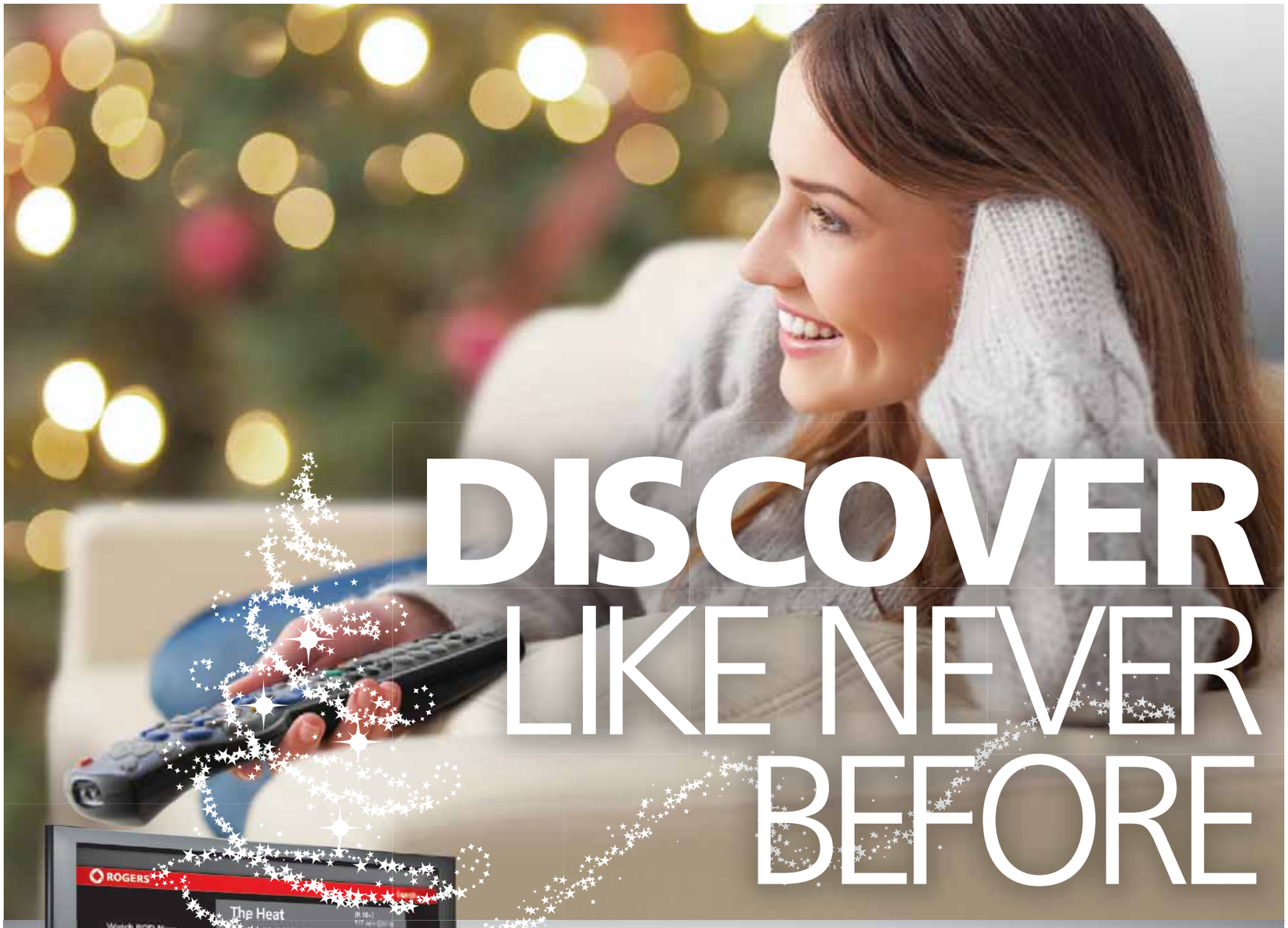

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